CLAIMS

1. A computer system configured to communicate with a plurality of users through a network interface, wherein at least one of the plurality of users communicates with the network interface through a computer network, the computer system comprising:

5   a service broker electrically connected to the network interface, the service broker controlling a level of access to the computer system by a user;

an authentication server electrically connected to the service broker, the authentication server configured to determine a level of access to be granted to a user based upon data stored therein;

10   a repository electrically connected to the service broker, the repository comprising a computer memory encoded with a plurality of objects including at least one job which may be accessed by the users;

a job server electrically connected to the service broker, the job server configured to execute a job stored within the repository and produce an output report, the job server also

15   configured to transmit an output report to the network interface for transmission to the user; and

an event server electrically connected to the service broker, the event server comprising a computer memory encoded with instructions for dispatching a job for processing on the job server according to a predefined schedule.

2. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the computer memory

20   of the repository is further encoded with job properties corresponding to said at least one job,

wherein said job properties define a set of input data be provided to a corresponding job server

when the job is executed; and wherein the job server is configured to process the set of input data

with the job when the job is executed.

3. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the computer memory

5 of the repository is further encoded with job properties corresponding to said at least one job,

wherein said job properties define a list of users to be notified when the job is executed; and

wherein the job server is configured to process said job properties and provide notification to the

list of users when the job is executed.

4. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the computer memory

10 of the repository is further encoded with job properties corresponding to said at least one job,

wherein said job properties define an exception condition and a list of users subscribing to the

exception condition, and wherein the job server is configured to compare said exception

condition to the output report to determine the existence of an exception, and to provide

notification to the list of users subscribing to the exception condition if the exception condition

15 exists when the job is executed.

5. A computer system electrically connected to at least one back-end

database, the computer system configured to communicate with at least one user through a

network interface, wherein said least one user communicates with the network interface through

a computer network, the computer system comprising:

20 a service broker electrically connected to the network interface, the service broker

controlling a level of access to the computer system by a user;

an authentication server electrically connected to the service broker, the

authentication server configured to determine a level of access to be granted to a user based upon

data stored therein;

a repository electrically connected to the service broker, the repository comprising

5   a computer memory encoded with a plurality of objects including at least one job which may be

accessed by the users;

a job server electrically connected to the service broker and to said at least one

back-end database, the job server configured to execute a job which retrieves and processes data

from the back-end database, the job server also configured to transmit an output report to the

10   network interface for transmission to the user; and

an event server electrically connected to the service broker, the event server

comprising a computer memory encoded with instructions for dispatching a job for processing

on the job server according to a predefined schedule.

6.   A computer system according to claim 5, wherein the computer memory

15   of the repository is further encoded with job properties corresponding to said at least one job,

wherein said job properties define a set of input data be provided to a corresponding job server

when the job is executed; and wherein the job server is configured to process the set of input data

with the job when the job is executed.

7.   A computer system according to claim 5, wherein the computer memory

20   of the repository is further encoded with job properties corresponding to said at least one job,

wherein said job properties define a list of users to be notified when the job is executed; and

wherein the job server is configured to process said job properties and provide notification to the list of users when the job is executed.

8. A computer system according to claim 5, wherein the computer memory of the repository is further encoded with job properties corresponding to said at least one job, wherein said job properties define an exception condition and a list of users subscribing to the exception condition, and wherein the job server is configured to compare said exception condition to the output report to determine the existence of an exception, and to provide notification to the list of users subscribing to the exception condition if the exception condition exists when the job is executed.

9. A computer system configured to communicate with at least one user through a network interface, wherein said at least one user communicates with the network interface through a computer network, the computer system comprising:

a service broker electrically connected to the network interface, the service broker controlling a level of access to the computer system by a user;

an authentication server electrically connected to the service broker, the authentication server configured to determine a level of access to be granted to a user based upon data stored therein;

a repository electrically connected to the service broker, the repository comprising a computer memory encoded with a plurality of objects including at least one job which may be accessed by the users and wherein the computer memory of the repository is further encoded

with job properties corresponding to said at least one job, wherein the job properties define an

input forms be provided to a corresponding job server when the job is executed;

a job server electrically connected to the service broker, the job server configured

to execute a job stored within the repository, and wherein the job server is configured to provide

5   a corresponding input form to a user; and wherein the job server also configured to receive input

from a user based upon the user form, the job server also configured to process the input from

the user with the job to produce an output report, the job server also configured to transmit the

output report to the network interface for transmission to the user.

10.   A computer system according to claim 9, wherein the computer memory

10   of the repository is further encoded with job properties defining a list of users to be notified

when the job is executed; and wherein the job server is configured to process said job properties

and provide notification to the list of users when the job is executed.

11.   A computer system according to claim 9, wherein the computer memory

of the repository is further encoded with job properties defining an exception condition and a list

15   of users subscribing to the exception condition, and wherein the job server is configured to

compare said exception condition to the output report to determine the existence of an exception,

and to provide notification to the list of users subscribing to the exception condition if the

exception condition exists when the job is executed.

12.   A computer system electrically connected to at least one back-end

20   database, the computer system configured to communicate with at least one user through a

network interface, wherein said least one user communicates with the network interface through

a computer network, the computer system comprising:

a service broker electrically connected to the network interface, the service broker

controlling a level of access to the computer system by a user;

an authentication server electrically connected to the service broker, the

authentication server configured to determine a level of access to be granted to a user based upon

5   data stored therein;

a repository electrically connected to the service broker, the repository comprising

a computer memory encoded with a plurality of objects including at least one job which may be

accessed by a user, and wherein the computer memory of the repository is further encoded with

job properties corresponding to said at least one job, wherein the job properties define an input

10   form be provided to a corresponding job server when the job is executed;

a job server electrically connected to the service broker and to at least one back-

end database, the job server configured to execute a job which retrieves and processes data from

the back-end database, and wherein the job server is configured to provide a corresponding input

form to a user; and wherein the job server also configured to receive input from a user based

15   upon the user form, and wherein the job server also configured to process the input from the user

with the job to produce an output report, and wherein the job server also configured to transmit

the output report to the network interface for transmission to the user.

13.   A computer system according to claim 12, wherein the computer memory

of the repository is further encoded with job properties defining a list of users to be notified

20   when the job is executed; and wherein the job server is configured to process said job properties

and provide notification to the list of users when the job is executed.

14. A computer system according to claim 12, wherein the computer memory of the repository is further encoded with job properties defining an exception condition and a list of users subscribing to the exception condition, and wherein the job server is configured to compare said exception condition to the output report to determine the existence of an exception, and to provide notification to the list of users subscribing to the exception condition if the exception condition exists when the job is executed.

15. A method of processing a job in a computer system comprised of a service broker, a repository including computer memory encoded with a plurality of objects including at least one job and an input form corresponding to said at least one job, an authentication server, and a job server, the computer system configured for communication with at least one user through a network interface, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to execute a job stored in the repository from a user connected to the computer system through the computer network;

retrieving the requested job and a corresponding input form from the repository;

dispatching the requested job and the corresponding input form for processing on a corresponding job server;

providing the input form to a user;

receiving a set of input data from a user corresponding to the input form;

processing the requested job with the set of input data received from the user in the job server so as to produce an output report; and

transmitting the output report to the user through the network interface.

16.   A method according to claim 15, wherein the job server is connected to at least one back-end database, and wherein the job server is configured to execute a job that retrieves and processes data from the back-end database, further comprising the steps of:

5   retrieving a set of data from a back-end database corresponding to the requested job; and

processing in the job server the requested job with the set of data retrieved from the back-end database and the set of input data received from the user so as to produce an output report.